

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 EB-07 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 EUR-12

SAM-01 SAJ-01 /094 W

----- 041003

R 021058Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5092

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, IS/ XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN RAFAH JUNCTION AREA

1. RECENT VISIT TO RAFAH JUNCTION AREA BY HOUSING MINISTER
AVRAHAM OFER HAS PROVIDED PRESS WITH OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT
STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES THERE. ACCORDING THESE
REPORTS, FIRST PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION AT REGIONAL CENTER OF
YAMIT WILL CONSIST OF 350 RESIDENCE UNITS, OF WHICH 185 ARE
NEARLY COMPLETED AND WILL BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY NEXT SUMMER.
IT IS REPORTEDLY FURTHER PLANNED THAT BY FALL CONSTRUCTION
WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED ON TWO KINDERGARTENS, A PRIMARY
SCHOOL, AND THREE SECTIONS OF COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL CENTER,
REMAINING 165 RESIDENCE UNITS OF FIRST-PHASE PLAN ARE EX-
PECTED TO BE READY BY MARCH 1976.

2. PRESS REPORTS CHIEF PLANNER FOR YAMIT (YEHUDA DREXLER)
AS STATING THAT EVENTUAL STAGES OF EXPANSION WILL BRING
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMES TO 1500. ALL WILL REPORTEDLY
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BE LOCATED WITHIN AREA OF ONE SQUARE KM. WITH HIGH-

SPEED ROADS SERVING AS BOUNDARIES. DREXLER IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT YAMIT, IN ADDITION TO ITS PLANNED ROLE AS REGIONAL COMMERCIAL CENTER, COULD BECOME HOLIDAY CENTER FOR BEERSHEVA AND AL OF NEGEV.

3. OFER TOLD REPORTERS THAT BY END OF 1975 DEVELOPMENT OF YAMIT AND ENVIRONS, INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE AS WELL AS HOUSING ITSELF, WILL HAVE COST IL 100 MILLION.

4. INITIAL RESIDENTS OF YAMIT, ACCORDING TO SENIOR HOUSING MINISTER OFFICIAL, WILL BE REGULAR ARMY PERSONNEL WITH FAMILIES, AMERICAN AND SOVIET IMMIGRANTS, AND SEVERAL ISRAELIS POSSESSING NEEDED SKILLS. AS SIDELIGHT TO OFER VISIT TO AEA PRESS REPORTS HE WAS CONFRONTED WITH DEMONSTRATION BY GROUP REPRESENTING PROSPECTIVE AMERICAN SETTLERS AND CALLING THEMSELVES "PIONEERS AND YAMIT." THE GROUP, COMPRISING FIFTEEN FAMILIES, HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN LIVING IN ABSORPTION CONETER IN BEERSHEVA FOR SIX MONTHS AND CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN IGNORED BY GOVERNEMTN SINCE COMING TO ISRAEL FOR EXPRESS PURPOSE OF SETTLING IN YAMIT.

KEATING

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